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iMovie 6 HD

Introduction to Video Editing on a Mac

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This handout based on: iMovie 6 HD

February 27, 2008 JC Gray Sawyer

Introduction

Apple iMovie is a user-friendly digital video editing application that is pre-installed on most Macintosh computers. This document introduces the interface and basic functionality of iMovie.

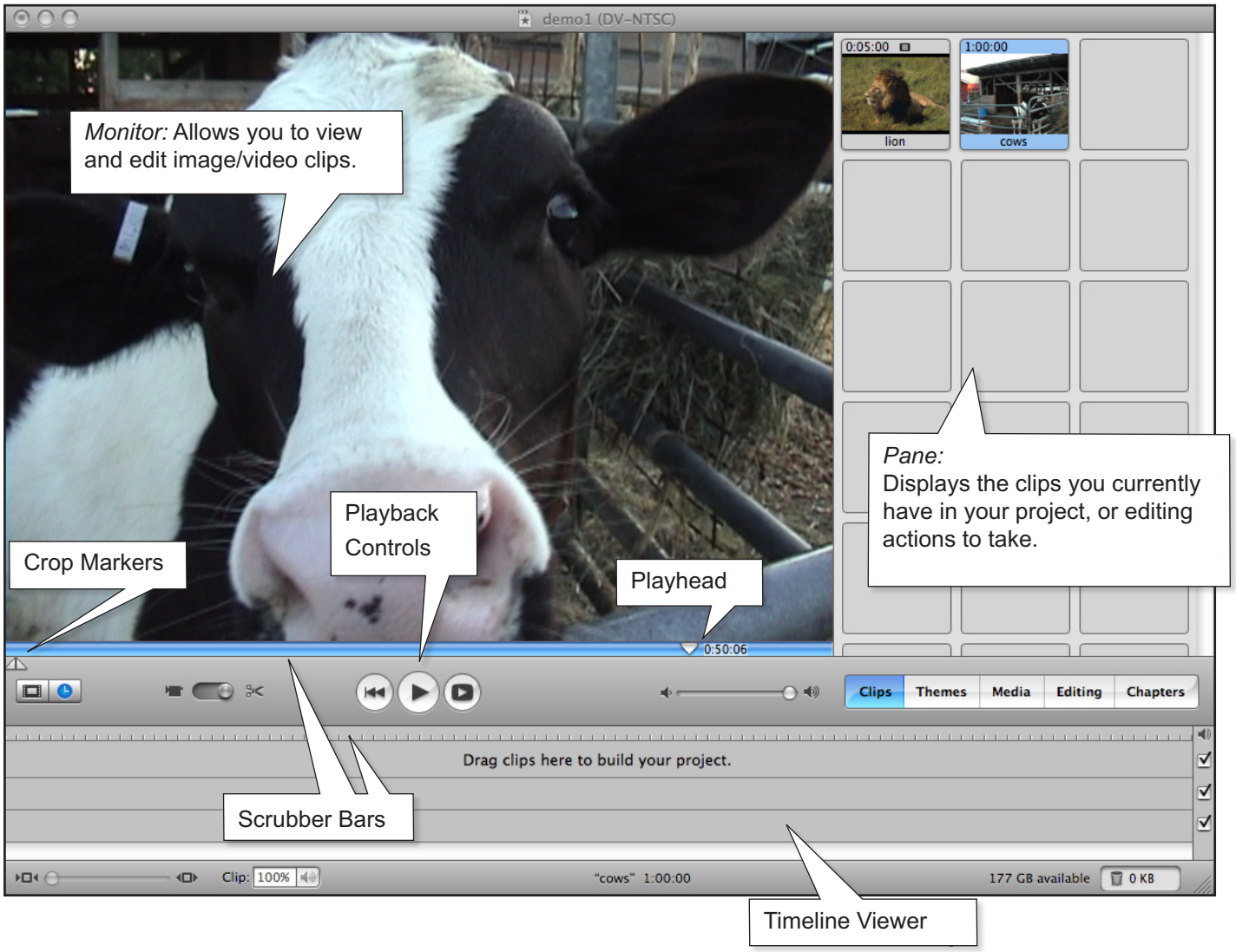
Get Started

Click the **iMovie** icon in your Dock. If the icon is not in the Dock, Click Finder in your Dock and choose **Applications > iMovie**.

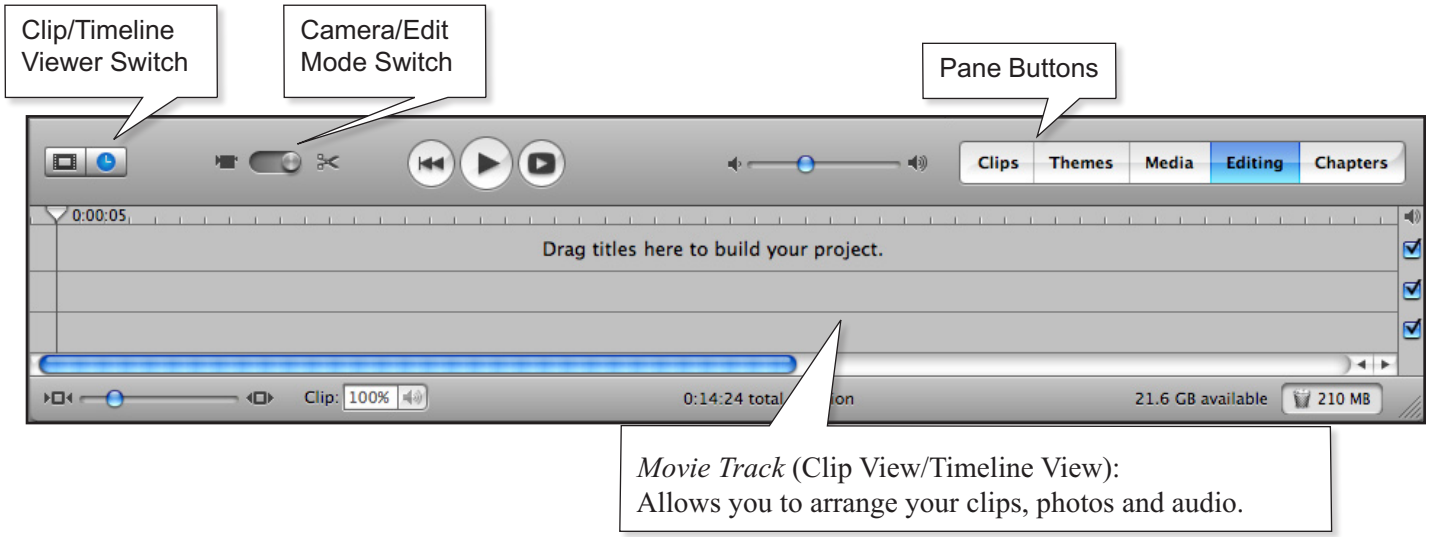
The first time that you open iMovie you will be prompted to either open an existing project or create a new one. If you click **New Project** you will be asked to give it a title.

Note: If you do not see the prompt screen, go to the top menu and choose **File > New**.

The Interface



The Movie Track Viewer



Manage Video Clips

Import Existing Digital Movies (Clips)

There are several ways to import a digital video file from your hard drive into iMovie:

- Drag the file icon directly into the *Clips Pane* or *Movie Track* of the iMovie interface from a location on your computer or external hard drive.
- Go to **File > Import**. In the *Open File* dialog box, navigate to the file that you want and click **Open**.
- In the *Movie Tasks Pane* click the arrow next to **Capture Video** to open the drop-down menu and choose **Import video**. In the *Import File* dialog box, navigate to the file that you want and click **Import**.

Arrange Your Clips

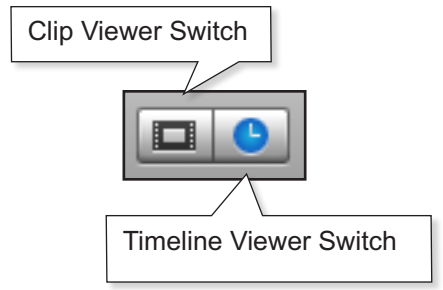
Click the icons above the *Movie Track* to switch between the *Timeline Viewer* and the *Clip Viewer* modes:

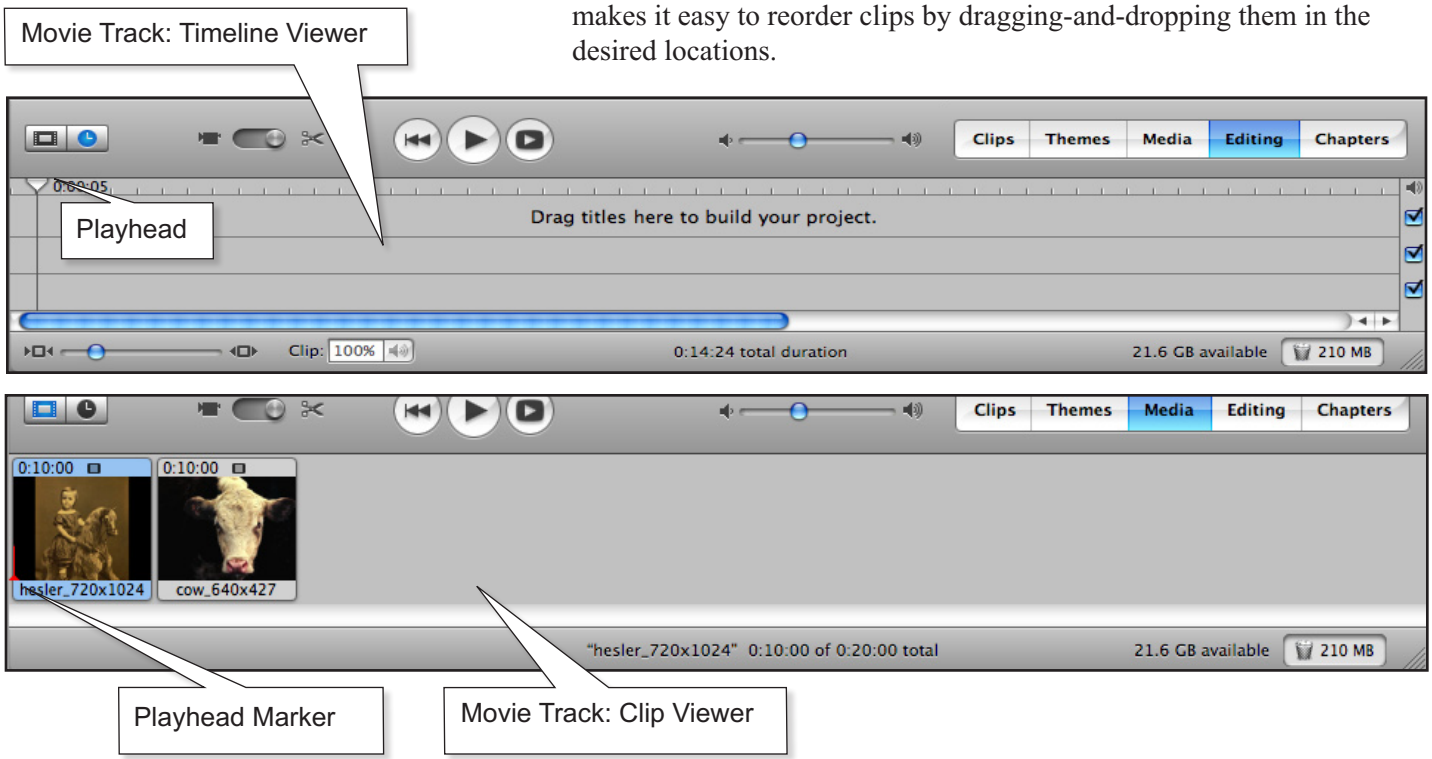
- The *Clip Viewer* (film clip icon) makes it easy to see and rearrange the order of your clips but does not display clip lengths.
- The *Timeline Viewer* displays the relative lengths of the clips but is not as easy to rearrange the order of clips.

Items in the *Clips Pane* can be dragged or Copied, Cut, and/or Pasted into either the *Clip View* or *Timeline View* of your *Movie Track*. Items in the *Clip Viewer* or *Timeline Viewer* of your *Movie Track* can be returned to the *Clips Pane*.

Drag-and-drop clips from the *Clips Pane* into the *Movie Track* in the order that you want them to appear in your final movie. The *Clip Viewer* makes it easy to reorder clips by dragging-and-dropping them in the desired locations.

In the *Timeline* and *Clip Viewers* a vertical line, the *Playhead*, represents your current location in the movie. Click anywhere on either *Scrubber Bar* to move the *Playhead* to a specific point, or click-and-drag the *Playhead* to

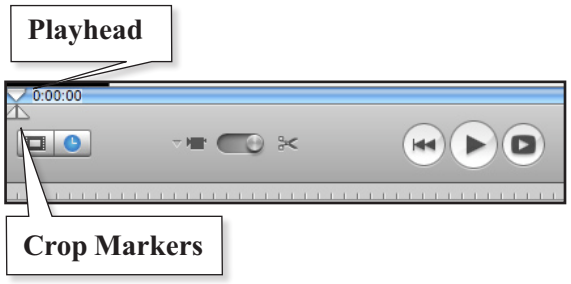




Edit Video

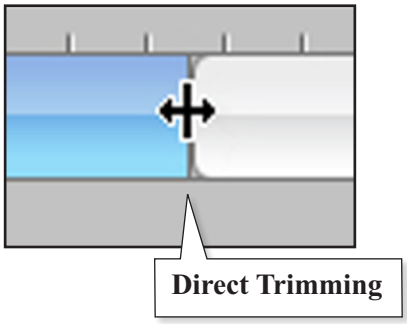
Editing is the process of sequencing your clips into an order that makes sense, eliminating any unnecessary parts, as well as augmenting it with audio, titles, transitions and effects.

Crop a Clip



Select the **clip** you wish to trim (in either the *Clips Pane* or *Movie Track*). In the *Monitor* window, underneath the Playhead on the *Scrubber Bar* are two small triangles: the *Crop Markers*. Click and drag the **Crop Markers** to set start and end points: indicated by the yellow section of the otherwise blue *Scrubber Bar*. Use the left and right **arrow keys** on the keyboard to move the selected *Crop Marker* frame by frame through your footage, or hold down **SHIFT** and an **arrow key** to move 10 frames at a time. To complete (render) the crop, go to **Edit > Crop**.

Shorten a Clip



In the *Timeline View* of your *Movie Track*, select the **clip** you want. Position the **pointer** over the end of the clip; it will transform into a vertical line with double-sided arrows. Grab the end of your clip and drag the **clip's end** inward. This is referred to as direct trimming and is a quick option if a clip needs to be fine-tuned once it is already in the *Movie Track.*

Direct trimming will not function if you're showing clip volume levels for audio editing in the *Movie Track*. To hide clip volume levels, go to **View > Show Clip Volume Levels** and deselect (uncheck) this option.

Note: Reference the Managing Audio section on page 8 of this document for details on working with audio.

Split a Clip Into Two Clips

In the *Timeline View*, place the *Playhead* to the position in the clip where you wish to split it into two segments. Choose **Edit > Split Video Clip at Playhead**. Your single clip will now be divided into two separate clips.

Delete a Clip

Select the **clip** you want to remove (it will turn blue) and then press **Delete,** or drag the **clip** into the *Trash* at the bottom-right of the *Movie Track.*

Editing Clips

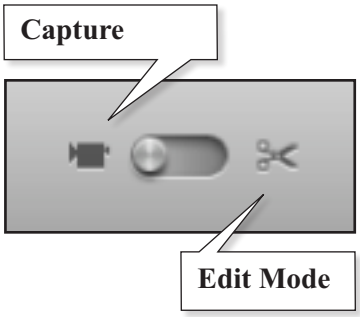
Cropping, shortening and splitting clips doesn't affect the original clips that your project's *Media Package* points to. The original clips, in their folders, will be unharmed by your editing decisions.

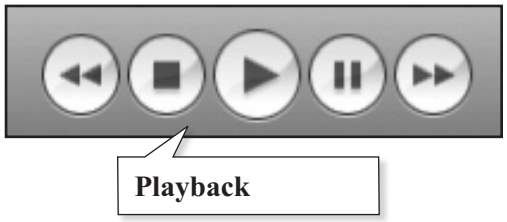
Save Your Project

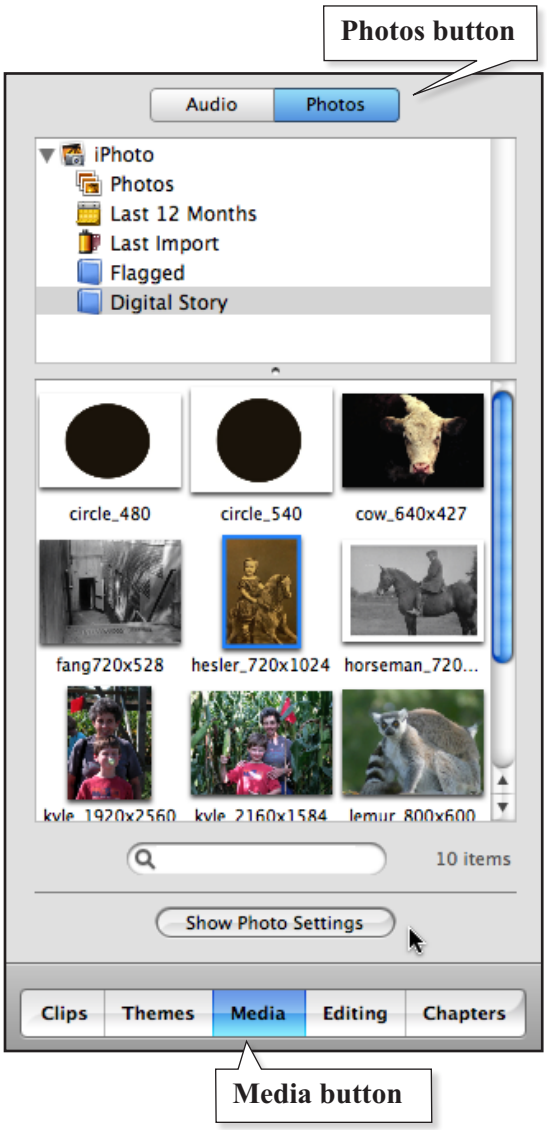
Periodically go to **File** > **Save Project** to save your current progress. We recommend you save every other clip.

Capture Video from a DV (Digital Video) Camera

Make sure you have sufficient disk space on your computer for storage and processing. To work with high-quality video, you will need 1 GB of drive space for every 5 minutes of raw video footage. Ensure that your computer has a FireWire (IEEE 1394) port.







Capture Video from a DV (Digital Video) Camera

1. Attach your **DV camera** to the computer using the appropriate **FireWire cable**.
   Note: In most cases this is a 4-pin to 6-pin FireWire cable. FireWire may also be referred to as iLink or IEEE 1394.
2. Set your camera to the **VCR** (or **VTR**) playback setting.
3. Toggle the **Capture** switch (camera icon) to switch from the default *Edit mode* to the *Capture mode*. A Camera Connected message will appear in the Monitor window.
4. You can now use the *Playback Controls* to control your camera from within iMovie.
5. Find a segment that you would like to import by selecting **Play**, **Rewind** and/ or **Fast Forward**. Use the **Pause** button to queue the start of the segment that you want to import.
6. Click the **Import** button to start importing and then click the **Import** button again when you reach the end of the segment of video that you want to capture for as a single clip.
   Note: iMovie automatically names the clips with a number. You can double-click any clip in the *Clips Pane* to enter a different title.

Manage Images

Import a Still Image (Digital Photo) from iPhoto

iMovie automatically interfaces with iPhoto. Organizing your digital photos within albums in the iPhoto library makes it simple to enhance your movie with key still images.

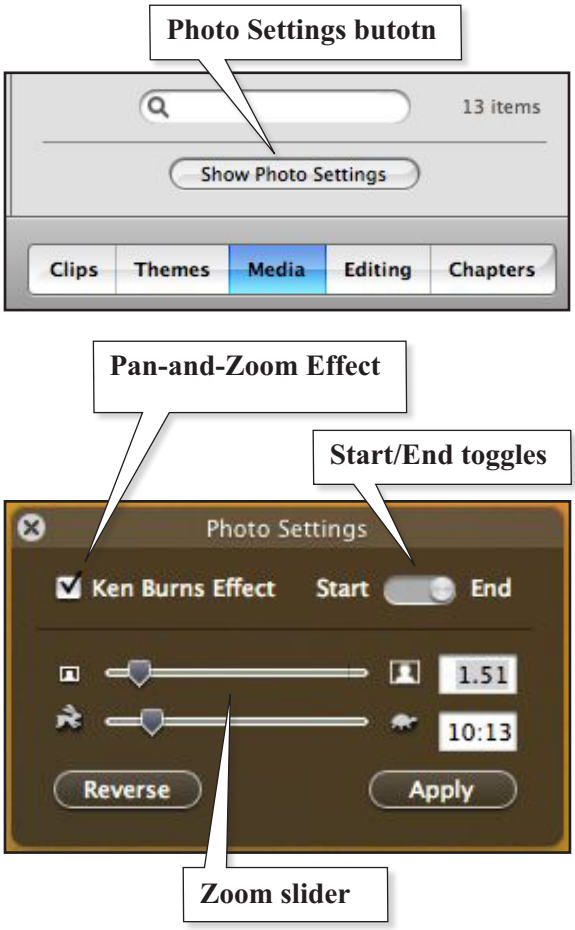
1. Click the **Media** button to open the *Media Pane*.
2. Click the **Photos** button to open your library of iPhoto images in iMovie.
3. Drag images onto the *Movie Track*, just as you do with video clips.

Import an Image File from the hard drive

- Drag the **file icon** directly from its location on your computer or external hard drive into the *Clips Pane* or *Movie Track* of the iMovie interface.

Or,

- Go to **File > Import**. In the *Open File* dialog box, navigate to and open the file that you want to import.



Add a Pan-and-Zoom Effect ("Ken Burns Effect")

1. Select the image you wish to import to the *Movie Track* from the *Media Pane,* or select an image already in the *Movie Track*.
2. Click the **Show Photo Settings** button in the *Media Pane*. The *Photo Settings* dialog box will appear, allowing you to control image duration, cropping, panning and zooming.
3. To add a Pan-and-Zoom to an image, check the *Ken Burns Effect* **checkbox**.
4. Select the **Start** toggle and select a **Zoom position** from the slider.
5. Select the **End** toggle and select a **Zoom position** from the slider.
6. Click **Apply** to confirm your settings.

Image dimensions for NTSC Projects

To have an image fit the iMovie frame perfectly, without black borders, use the table below. Size your images in an image-editing program prior to importing them into iMovie.

Project Format	Minimum Graphics Dimensions
MPEG-4	640 x 480 px
Standard DV	720 x 528 px
DV Widescreen	874 x 480 px
HDV (720p)	1280 x 720 px
HDV (1080i)	1920 x 1080 px

Create/Export a Still Image from Your Video

You can select a frame in your movie and save it as a still image. You can then add it to your movie and use it as you would any photograph. Additionally, you can save the still image as a file to export to another application.

Create a Still Image From Video

1. Drag the **Playhead** (in the *Timeline Viewer* or *Monitor*) to the frame you want to capture.
2. Go to **Edit > Create Still Frame**.
   iMovie places the new clip of the still image in the *Clips Pane* (or at the end of the *Clip Viewer* or T*imeline Viewer* if you set your preferences to import clips there).

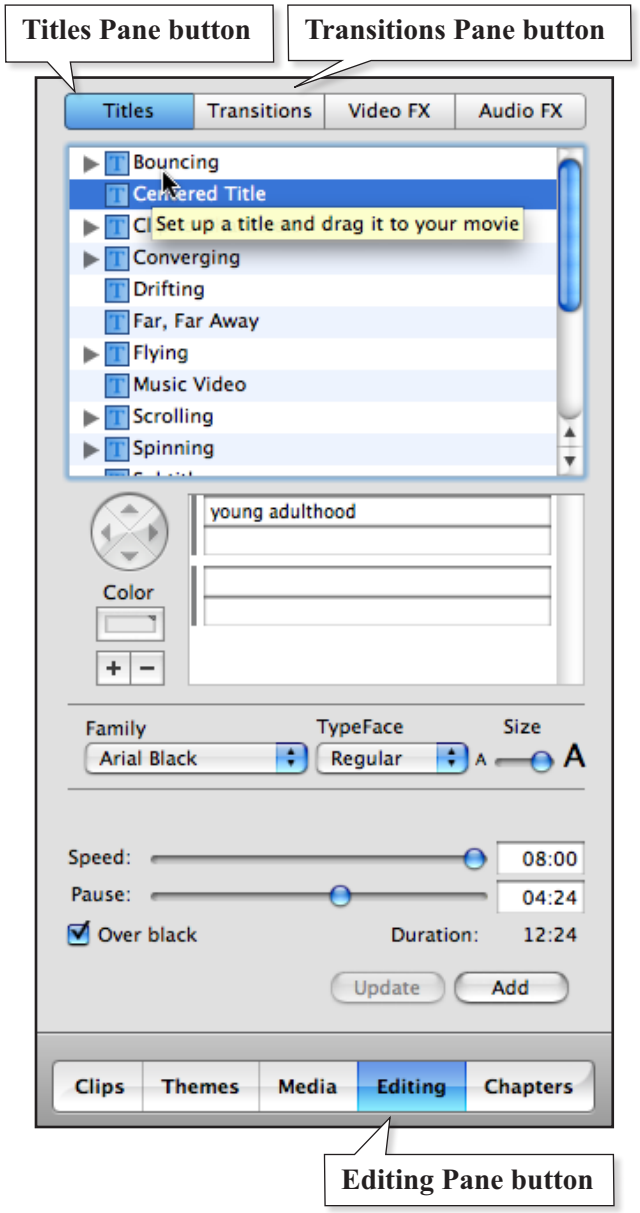
Save an Image as a File to Export to Another Application

1. Drag the Playhead (in the Movie Track or Monitor) to the frame you want to capture.
2. Go to **File > Save Frame.** Save the file with the format and name you want. You can save still images in JPEG or PICT file format.

- If you intend to send an image through email or post it on a webpage, choose JPEG.
- If you plan to reuse the still image in your iMovie project, choose PICT.

Notes:

- You can't apply Pan-and-Zoom effects to still images you create from digital video.
- To precisely adjust the *Playhead*, press the **Left** or **Right Arrow** key to move it one frame at a time. To move it in ten-frame increments, hold down the **Shift** key while pressing the **arrow** key.



Add Text, Transitions and/or Effects

Add Text (titles, subtitles, credits, copyright notices, etc.) to Your Video

1. Select a **clip** in the *Movie Track* that you would like the text to proceed or float over.
2. Click the *Editing* Pane button to open the *Editing Pane.* The *Editing Pane* offers options for *Titles, Transitions, Video Effects* and *Audio Effects*.
3. From within the *Editing Pane*, click the *Titles pane* button to open the *Titles Pane*.
4. From the list in the *Titles Pane*, select the type of **title** you would like to use.

- Enter your text into the *Text Field* box.
- Choose the **font, font size, font color.**
- Set the **duration** and (where applicable) **direction**.

5. Select the **Over Black checkbox**, if you wish your title to appear on a black background rather than superimposed over your video.
6. Click the **Add** button to overlay the text onto your selected clip or apply it over black prior to your clip.
   Note: Or you may drag the highlighted title into the *Movie Track* and drop it just to the left of the clip you would like it to interface with.

Add a Transition to Your Video

Transition Use

Transitions should be used sparingly. The *Fade* transition is especially practical, providing a smooth fade between one clip and the next or to convey the passing of time.

1. Position the **Playhead** so that it's on the seam between the two clips involved in the transition.
2. Click the **Editing** *Pane* button to open the *Editing Pane*.
3. From within the *Editing Pane*, click the **Transitions** Pane button to open the *Transitions Pane*.
4. From the list in the Transitions Pane, select the **type of transition** you would like to use.
5. Set the **Speed** that you would like for the transition to occur.
6. Click the **Add** button to insert the transition between the two clips.
   Note: Or you may drag the transition down onto the *Movie Track* and release it between the two clips that you want to join by the transition.

Add an Effect to Your Video

Effects Use

Effects should be used sparingly. The *Fade In, From Black* and *Fade Out, to Black* effects, used on the first or last clip (respectively) provide a polished look. The *Brighten* and *Darken* effects can improve under- and/or over-exposed video footage.

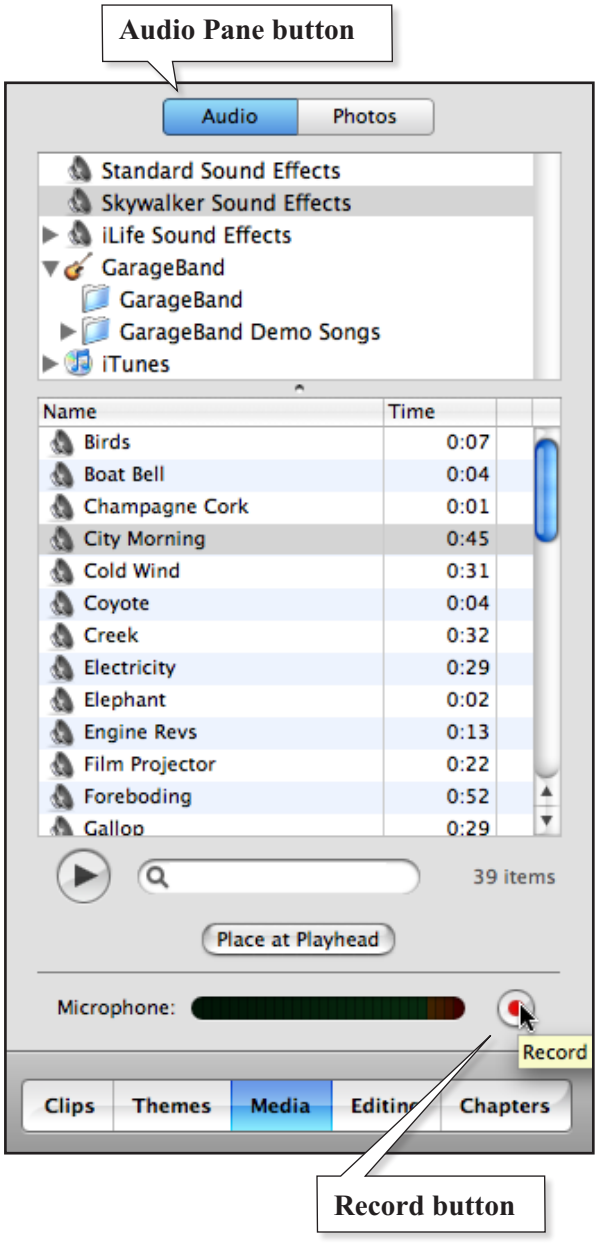
1. Select the **video clip** (or clips) in the *Movie Track* that you wish to apply a video effect to.
2. Click the **Editing** Pane button to open the *Editing Pane*.
3. From within the *Editing Pane*, click the **Video FX** Pane button to open the *Video Effects Pane*.
4. From the list in the *Video FX Pane*, select the **type of video effect** you would like to use.
   Note: Each effect has a unique set of options to configure (such as *Effect In, Effect Out, Direction, Duration, Speed,* etc.).
5. Click **Apply** to overlay the effect on your selected clip(s).

Questions to ask yourself before adding ANY Video Effects and/or Transitions

Many first-time videographers fall into the trap of "cheesy" effects—be wary!

The following are some video effects guidelines:

- Do you really need an effect/transition?
- Is the effect/transition consistent with the style (and other effects) in your movie?
- Which effect/transition is appropriate, if any?



Manage Audio

Add Audio

In the *Timeline Viewer* of the *Movie Track* the two horizontal bands below your video track are your arena for audio clips. Each audio track can hold sound from any of these sources:

- iTunes tracks
- GarageBand tracks
- Narration from an external mic
- Sound Effects from iMovie's audio palette
- MP3, WAV, AIFF, and AAC files
- Camcorder audio

Add audio to your movie project:

1. Click the **Media** Pane button, then click the **Audio** Pane button. **Note:** iMovie is linked to the iTunes library and Garageband, as well as stock sets of sound effects.
2. A desired audio track or sound effect can be dragged to one of the two audio tracks in the *Movie Track*.

   Or,

   Position the **Playhead** at a certain location on the *Scrubber Bar* and then click **Place at Playhead.**

Record audio into your movie project:

1. Click the **Media** Pane button, then click the **Audio** Pane button.
2. Plug-in a USB Mic to the computer.
3. Go to **Apple > System Preferences > Sound**.
4. Select the **Input** tab and select your **USB Mic**. Maximize its **Input Volume** slider.
5. Select the **Output** tab and select your **USB Mic**. Adjust its **Output Volume** slider.
6. Place the **Playhead** at a point on the Timeline where you want to begin recording.
7. Click the **red Record button** and begin recording. Click the red Record button again to end recording.

Work with Audio

Audio clips can be arranged in relationship to video and/or each other. Drag–and-drop **audio clips** in the *Movie Track* just as you do video clips. The crop markers at either end of the clips allow them to be shortened/lengthened.

To adjust an audio clips volume:

1. Select an **audio clip**.
2. Adjust the entire clip's volume using the **Volume Control Toggle** at the bottom of *Movie Track*.

Select/De-select the **check boxes** on the right-side of the *Timeline Viewer* to hear/mute separate audio tracks.

To view audio track waveforms, go to **View > Show Audio Waveforms**.

To view audio track volume levels, go to **View > Show Clip Volume Levels**. Clicking on the horizontal line installs handles that can be dragged up or down, right or left, to adjust the volume of section of an audio clip.

Export Your Movie

To view all the options for exporting your completed movie go to F**ile > Export**, or **Share** in the top menu.

Export to DVD

Go to **Share > iDVD.** Your movie will be transferred to iDVD where you can choose themes and settings for authoring your DVD.

Export to Videocamera

1. Go to S**hare > Videocamera**.
   Note: Ensure that your videocamera is attached to the computer via FireWire, that it is set to VCR (or VTR), and that you have a blank tape in the camera.
2. Click **Share** and iMovie exports back to tape.

Export to a File

1. Go to **Share > QuickTime.**
   Note: It is usually desirable to compress a video file to make it more portable.
2. Select the **level of compression** from the choices in the drop down menu next to Compress movie for.
   Note: Select **Full quality DV** if you do not want to compress the video.
3. Click **Share**.

Appendix: Export Options

The following examples provide basic settings information (frames per second, frame size, audio quality) and approximate file size for various export options for your digital video from iMovie.

	Frame Dimensions	Frames per Second	1 Minute Video
QuickTime: Expert Setti ngs (DV-NTSC)	720 x 480	29.97	216.9MB
QuickTime: Full Quality	640 x 480	29.97	206 MB
QuickTime: CD-ROM	320 x 240	15	4.6MB
iPod	320 x 240	30	5.9 MB
QuickTime: Broadband-High Quality	320 x 240	12	5.7 MB
QuickTime: Broadband-Medium Quality	320 x 240	12	2.2 MB
QuickTime: Broadband-Low Quality	320 x 240	12	776 KB
QuickTime: Web Streaming-Medium Quality	320 x 240	12	1.6 MB
QuickTime: Web Streaming Low Quality	320 x 240	12	772 KB
Web Quality	320 x 240	12	1.4 MB
Email	160 x 120	10	1.1 MB

Appendix: Storage Space Needed for Storing Raw Digital Video

Minutes of Digital Video	Size of File
1	217 MB
5	1 GB
10	2.17 GB
20	4.4 GB
30	6.5 GB
40	8.7 GB
50	10.9 GB
60	13 GB